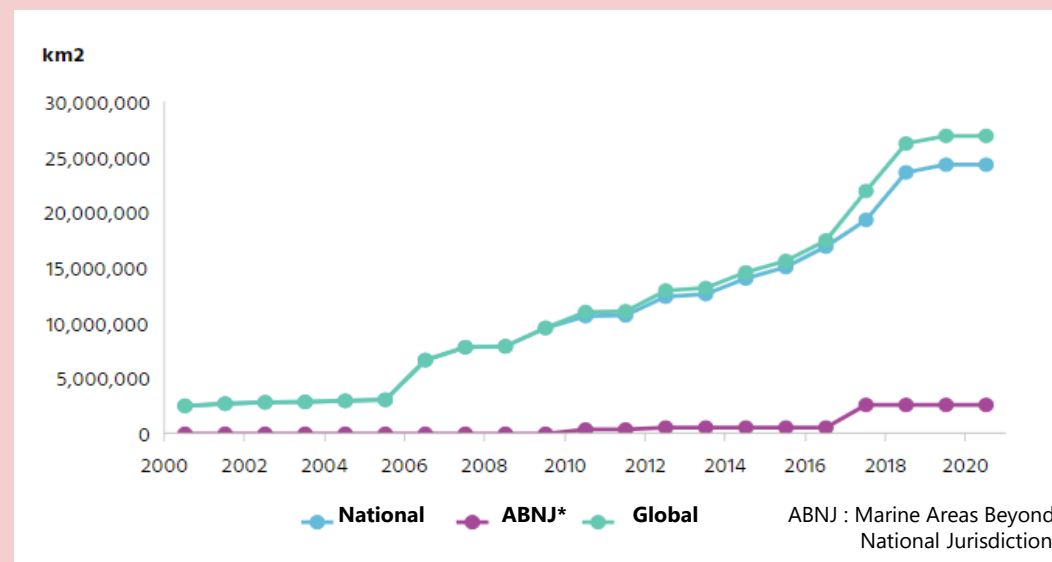


# Marine Protected Areas

- ▶ A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a delimited area at sea, often on the coast, the components and natural resources of which are totally or partially protected (1).
- ▶ This protection translates into a total or partial ban on specific activities (fishing, tourism, underwater exploration, ...) (2), with the objective of preserving and protecting habitats, monitoring the evolution of ecosystems and ensuring sustainable fisheries management.
- ▶ MPAs are now considered a powerful and effective tool, not only for the preservation of the marine ecosystem, but also for the guarantee of sustainable economic development for adjacent communities.
- ▶ The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water, in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets issued in 2010, called for the preservation of up to 10% of the total marine and coastal areas by 2020 (1).

- ▶ However, according to the "Protected Planet" platform (3), MPAs currently cover only 7.93% of the global ocean, with a total of 17,721 marine protected areas. The majority of these areas are in territorial waters, which account for 39% of the global ocean and of which 18.5% is protected, while waters beyond national jurisdiction, which account for 61% of the ocean, are only covered by MPAs to the extent of 1.18%.

Trends in Marine Protected Area surfaces



Source: [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)

# Marine Protected Areas

- ▶ According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, there are six categories under which MPAs fall (4).
  - ❖ Category 1a: **strict nature reserve** : Wilderness Area, protected primarily for scientific research purposes.
  - ❖ Category 1b: **Wilderness area**, managed primarily to protect wild resources.
  - ❖ Category 2: **National park**, managed primarily to protect ecosystems for recreational purposes.
  - ❖ Category 3: **Natural Monument or feature**, established to preserve specific natural features.
  - ❖ Category 4: **Habitat or species management area**, requiring regular intervention to maintain specific habitats and the species that live there.
  - ❖ Category 5: **Protected landscape or seascape**, managed to conserve a landscape or seascape as a whole and its interactions with humans.
  - ❖ Category 6: **Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources**, promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems and its social and economic benefits to local communities.

## MPAs in Morocco

- ▶ 1.1% of Morocco's territorial waters, up to the exclusive economic zone, are covered by MPAs (5).
- ▶ The protected areas on Morocco's coastline fall into category 6, i.e., areas protected with sustainable use of natural resources (6), notably to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and to promote the recovery of fishery resources.
- ▶ The maritime part of the Al Hoceima National Park, established in 2004, together with the Alboran MPA in the Jebha-Martil region, are Morocco's two MPAs on the Mediterranean coast (7).
- ▶ Morocco's Atlantic coast also hosts two MPAs, the first being the Mogador MPA along the Safi-Essaouira region and the second being the Massa MPA on the Aglou-Sidi Ifni coast (7).

# Marine Protected Areas

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